4/13/82 R9375-1A

TRAVEL PRINTOUT

Research News for the U.S. Travel Industry

U.S. Travel Data Center

April, 1982 Volume 11, Number 4

National Travel Survey

FOURTH QUARTER TRAVEL SHOWS MODEST INCREASE

After a summer travel season with virtually no growth, 1981 closed with a moderate increase in the fourth quarter, according to the 1981 National Travel Survey Fourth Quarter Report, soon to be released by the U.S. Travel Data Center.

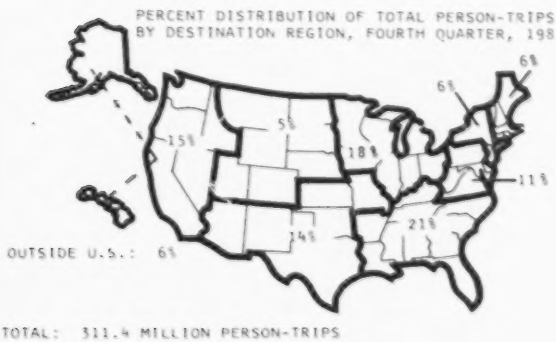
Overall, person-trips were up nearly 10 percent over the fourth quarter of the previous year. (A person-trip is recorded each time any one person goes on a trip at least 100 miles or more away from home.)

According to the National Travel Survey, a monthly telephone survey of over 1,000 American adults, the purpose for travel was most often to visit friends and relatives. "Other pleasure" travel (including sightseeing, entertainment and outdoor recreation), however, grew substantially over year-earlier levels.

Americans traveled to destinations which were somewhat closer to home, but trips had slightly longer durations than those made during the fourth quarter of 1980. The average distance for trips taken in the fourth quarter of 1981 was 860 round-trip miles, while duration averaged 4.6 nights spent away from home.

The South, as in the last three quarters, was again the number one destination region, visited by one-fifth of all travelers, followed by the Great Lakes Country region which received an 18 percent share. New England and the Mountain West were visited least. Travel outside the U.S. was up nine percent over last year.

The 1981 National Travel Survey Fourth Quarter Report, including over 130 pages of tables, analysis and comparisons with 1980, will be sent free to Data Center members and is available for $50.00 from the U.S. Travel Data Center, 1899 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. # #



SUMMER TRAVEL SEMINAR

The outlook for summer vacation travel will be unveiled at a May 13 seminar co-sponsored by the U.S. Travel Data Center and the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) at the new Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The seminar will cover the impact of changes in inflation, unemployment and overall business conditions since summer, 1981. It will forecast how individual markets will fare in the June-August period of 1982 and examine travel patterns of last summer. Demographics, transport modes, and regional outlooks will be reviewed, with time for discussion of implications for travel marketers.

(See SEMINAR, page 3)

GASOLINE PRICE DECLINES SLOW COST OF TRAVEL IN FEBRUARY

For the first time since early 1979, travel prices increased at a slower rate than consumer prices for a 12-month period, as February travelers paid less for gasoline for the eleventh month in a row.

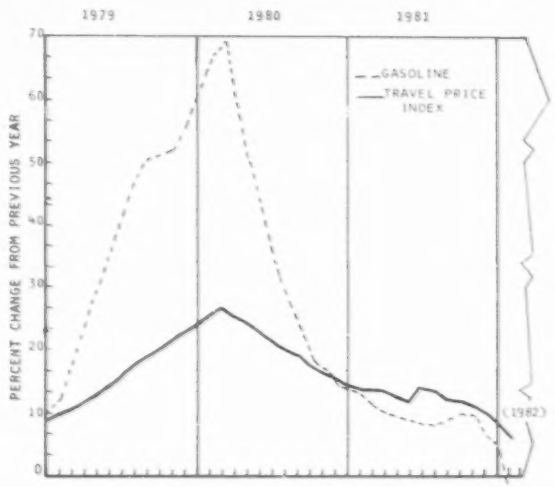
The cost of travel in the U.S., as measured by the U.S. Travel Data Center's Travel Price Index (TPI), rose 0.3 percent in February, down from the 0.9 percent increase registered in January.

For comparison, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) also rose 0.3 percent on a seasonally unadjusted basis in February 1982.

The TPI, which measures changes in the seasonally unadjusted cost of lodging, food, transportation and other goods and services purchased by Americans while traveling away from home in this country, stood at 331.0 in February (1967=100).

Gasoline prices declined 1.7 percent from January. Also, intercity rail and bus fares fell 1.3 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

The TPI has increased 7.1 percent since February 1981, while the CPI has risen 7.7 percent during the same period. Travelers paid less for gasoline in February 1982 than a year ago, as gasoline prices have dropped 2.8 percent since February 1981. # #



TRAVEL PRICE INDEX REFLECTS MODERATION OF GASOLINE PRICES

Monthly and Annual Rates of Change in the Travel Price Index and Components, February, 1982

TPI Component	Monthly Percent Change January, 1982 to February, 1982	Annual Percent Change February, 1981 to February, 1982
Transportation	-0.4	4.9
Airline Fares	1.0	13.5
Intercity Bus Fares	-0.4	16.9
Intercity Train Fares	-1.3	13.6
Taxicab Fares	0.2	9.3
Gasoline	-1.7	-2.8
Lodging	1.4	12.9
Food Away From Home	0.5	5.8
Entertainment Services	0.7	6.6
Incidentals	0.7	5.1
TRAVEL PRICE INDEX	0.3	7.1
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	0.3	7.7

Source: U.S. Travel Data Center and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

TRAVEL PRINTOUT is published monthly by the U.S. Travel Data Center, the national non-profit center for travel and tourism research, 1899 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone number, (202) 293-1040. Dr. Douglas C. Frechtling, Director. Ida Simmons, Editor. TRAVEL PRINTOUT reports on the results of Data Center projects, national travel research conducted by other respected organizations, and trends in the U.S. travel industry. Subscriptions are available for $40 per year, U.S., Canada, and Mexico; other foreign countries, $50 per year, payable in U.S. funds only. TRAVEL PRINTOUT is supported by a grant from the Travel Industry Association of America.
Application to mail at 2nd Class postage rates pending at Washington, D.C. Postmaster: Send address changes to U.S. Travel Data Center, 1899 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

TRAVEL DECLINES IN JANUARY

Reflecting severe weather conditions coupled with the recession, travel in January of 1982 declined when compared to year-earlier levels, according to the U.S. Travel Data Center's National Travel Survey conducted in early February.

U.S. travelers took nearly eight percent fewer person-trips than they did one year before. (A person-trip is recorded each time a person goes on a trip 100 miles or more away from home.)

Business/convention and vacation travel posted the largest declines, while weekend and pleasure travel volume was higher than last January. Travel by auto/truck/RV was down significantly, but air travel rebounded.

For the first time in several months the survey revealed that vacation travel intentions have also weakened. Of those interviewed, 4 ercent intend to take a vacation trip hin the next six months, compared tc 7 percent one year ago. More vacation travel by air, however, was indicated.

The Data Center's National Travel Survey is based on telephone interviews with more than 1,400 adults each month. The complete monthly results are available by subscription only, and subscription should be entered now for the 1982 National Travel Survey reports. Contact Suzanne Cook, Manager of Survey Research, for the Data Center at 202/293-1040. # #

BRIEFS

Current Travel Indicators update: The number of intercity bus passenger-miles for November was 1.9 billion.

# #

In the February issue of Travel Printout, the number of foreign arrivals from Canada for November was incorrect. The correct number should read 622,731.

# #

We regret the inconvenience caused by delays in mailing Travel Printout in January and February. Rockville Mailing Service of Rockville, Maryland, now posts Travel Printout. # #

SEMINAR

(continued from page 1)

Early registration is encouraged as attendance will be limited. Registration cost is $50 for Data Center and TIA members and $65 for non-members. Add $10 after May 7. Full members of the Data Center and Sustaining members of TIA may attend free. The registration fee includes a complimentary copy of the 1982 Outlook for Summer Travel: A Guide to Vacation Markets. For further information contact Ida Simmons, 202/293-1040. # #

VISITOR VOLUME AT NATIONAL PARKS

Region	January, 1982 visits[1] (thousands)	Change from December, 1981 (percent)	Change from January, 1981 (percent)	1982/81 Year-to date (percent)
New England	235.8	-17.9%	-35.3%	-35.3%
Eastern Gateway	145.3	-34.7	-15.3	-15.3
G. Washington County	4,646.6	-23.6	-14.0	-14.0
The South	4,521.1	-13.9	-10.7	-10.7
Great Lakes County	105.1	14.6	-9.5	-9.5
Mountain West	363.7	-19.7	-13.9	-13.9
Frontier West	819.9	-12.9	-6.1	-6.1
Far West	2,407.9	3.9	7.7	7.7
The Islands	357.3	*	39.4	39.4
TOTAL	13,602.7	-16.1%	-8.7%	-8.7%

[1]Preliminary; adjusted for differences in reporting units. *Less than 0.05 percent.
Source: National Park Service

States comprising the travel regions:

NEW ENGLAND: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. EASTERN GATEWAY: New York, New Jersey. GEORGE WASHINGTON COUNTRY: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia. SOUTH: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee. GREAT LAKES COUNTRY: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin. MOUNTAIN WEST: Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming. FRONTIER WEST: Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas. FAR WEST: Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington. THE ISLANDS: American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

CURRENT TRAVEL INDICATORS	January, 1982	% Change from December, 1981	% Change from January, 1981	Year-to-date % Change 1982/1981
Establishment receipts or retail sales[1]				
Amusement and recreation services		(DISCONTINUED BY THE CENSUS BUREAU)		
Car rental/leasing without drivers		(DISCONTINUED BY THE CENSUS BUREAU)		
Eating and drinking places	8,051 million	0.7	2.1	2.1
Hotels, motels and other lodging places		(DISCONTINUED BY THE CENSUS BUREAU)		
Gasoline service stations	8,726 million	2.0	2.7	2.7
Commercial lodging demand				
Hotel/motel occupancy rate[2]	55.8 percent	16.5	-6.2	-6.2
Real demand for commercial lodging[3]		(DISCONTINUED BY THE CENSUS BUREAU)		
Airline passenger traffic[4]				
Domestic revenue passenger-miles	13.8 billion	-3.2	-0.3	-0.3
International revenue passenger-miles	3.5 billion	1.6	0.1	0.1
Bus passenger traffic[5]				
Intercity bus passenger-miles	1.4 billion	-23.4	-16.5	-16.5
Highway traffic volume[6]				
Main rural road vehicle-miles	36.5 billion	-12.5	-3.2	-3.2
Rail passenger traffic[7]				
Amtrak passenger-miles	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travel Price Index[8]	329.9	0.9	9.4	9.4
U.S. resident travel[9]				
Total person-trips	55.5 million	-42.5	-7.0	-7.0
Vacation person-trips	26.8 million	-53.6	-23.4	-23.4
Public use of National Parks[10]				
Visits	13,526,900	-17.5	-11.4	-11.4
Overnight stays	408,700	7.7	-10.0	-10.0
Foreign arrivals in U.S.[11]				
From overseas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
From Canada	656,037	23.2	-8.6	-8.6
U.S. citizen departures[11]				
To overseas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
To Canada	276,868	-31.9	-14.7	-14.7
Domestic demand for motor gasoline[12]				
Barrels per day	6,079 thousand	-8.9	-4.9	-4.9

[1]Preliminary; adjusted for seasonal variation and trading day differences. Source: Bureau of the Census. [2]Source: Laventhol and Horwath, seasonally adjusted. [3]Preliminary; seasonally unadjusted expenditures for commercial lodging adjusted for inflation since 1967. Source: U.S. Travel Data Center. [4]Preliminary; U.S. scheduled service air carriers. Source: Civil Aeronautics Board. [5]All carriers regular route and charter service. Source: American Bus Association. [6]Source: Federal Highway Administration. [7]Source: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). [8]Source: U.S. Travel Data Center and Bureau of Labor Statistics. [9]Source: U.S. Travel Data Center. [10]Preliminary; unadjusted for differences in reporting units. Source: National Park Service. [11]Source: U.S. Travel Service and Nettelton Travel Research Center. [12]Preliminary; Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

4

U.S. Travel Data Center

1899
L Street
Northwest
Washington, D.C.
20036
(202) 293-1040

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FIRST CLASS
PERMIT NO. 45523
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April, 1982

TRAVEL PRINTOUT

Research News for the U.S. Travel Industry

E9819 IDC 0580 2
JEANNE LONG
CONGRESSIONAL INFO SER/SRI X
4520 EAST-WEST HWY STE 800 X
WASHINGTON DC 20014 X